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OCCULTATION OF COMPACT RADIO SOURCES BY THE ION TAIL OF HALLEY'S COMET.

PQ 6080%

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Enhancements of scintillations of the compact radio sources PKS 2314+03 and 1827-360 were observed at 103 MHz and 408 MHz during 18-21 December 1985 and on 29 March 1986, respectively, when the plasma tail of Halley's comet swept across them. At 103 MHz the RMS plasma density variation along the tail was 10 and 3.3 ${\rm cm}^{-3}$ at 0.12 AU and 0.18 AU, respectively, as measured from the comet's position. At 408 MHz it was 1.9 cm⁻³ at 0.036 AU. Comparison of results of these two sets of observations is presented.